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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

July 16, 1959

MEMORANDUM OF MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT  
(Monday, 13 July at 10:30 a. m.)



1. At the beginning of the meeting, Tom Stephens was present for a discussion of the request by Representative Bonner for an appointment with the President for himself, the two North Carolina Senators and some North Carolina residents for the purpose of inviting the President to speak on Virginia Dare Day at the Lost Colony Pageant on approximately August 18 with some flexibility to meet the President's convenience. The President, after some discussion, felt that he should not consider the invitation for the following reasons: (1) he had made a disproportionately number of appearances in North Carolina as compared with other states; (2) possibility of a Summit meeting; (3) probability of Congressional pressures; (4) if he could be away at that time he would hope to be getting some rest.

The President said, however, that if the Legislative Liaison people felt that it was worthwhile, he would consider making a tape recording. In any event, he indicated to me that he would rather prefer to see Congressman Bonner without the Senators because of their position in the Strauss matter.

2. I indicated to the President that I considered the Record of Actions routine and would approve it on his behalf.

3. I reported to the President on my final roundup with respect to the unilateral offer on the part of the U.S. to bring large numbers of Russian students to this country. I summarized for the President the attached statement, indicating the positions of the various agency heads.

The President then said that he had started on this idea about three years ago when the colleges and universities weren't full.

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, 2/28/94 (S)

MA 80-71 #24  
BY DJH 126/84

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PORTIONS EXEMPTED  
E.O. 12958, 2/28/94 (S)(1)(2)  
NSC Letter 2/7/63  
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Had his advisers agreed with him at that time the undertaking would have been a practicable one. Now he fears that the pressures on educational institutions from our own population is such that we might not be able to handle the Russian students. As an example he cited the fact that Barnard College has found it necessary to rent a hotel to accommodate its students.

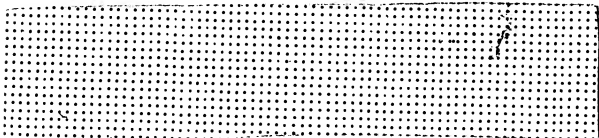
I indicated to the President that I felt that my mission was accomplished and that I would do nothing further unless there was some indication from him.

I also reported to the President that only the Vice President seemed still to favor bringing increased numbers of the "managerial class" to the U. S.

4. I then indicated to the President that I wished to discuss three matters which involved Berlin, and to some extent, the Foreign Ministers conference in Geneva.

The first related to the level of troops in Berlin and his request that a study be made of what the number might appropriately be. I indicated that I had levied a request on Mr. Murphy and the answer had not been forthcoming, largely because he had difficulty getting a coordinated Defense view. I reported to the President that the JCS had just completed a review and were opposed to any reduction. However, it appeared that Defense was taking a less obdurate view and that I hoped within a few days there would be an answer for him.

I also reported that I was informed that General Norstad and the military in Washington were concerned about a limitation without inspection and verification as a precedent which might be bothersome in later and broader disarmament negotiations. The President indicated that he did not have in mind that there would be any limitation but if there were to be a reduction it would be unilateral and not necessarily permanent.



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The third item had to do with the Department of Defense's concern that the State Department was materially weakening the US position with respect to Berlin. I indicated to the President that the JCS had concluded that our negotiating position, from a military point of view, would be stronger now than two and a half years from now, and that this was also the conclusion of an ad hoc committee consisting of State, Defense, JCS and CIA. The President found this hard to believe. In any event, I pointed out to him that on the basis of a State Department paper, which had been made available to Defense, Defense felt against the background at this time, the State Department was proposing a two and a half year moratorium with respect to Berlin; or alternatively, proposing a "guaranteed free city" or a UN trusteeship for Berlin. Either of the latter courses was felt by Defense to demonstrate a retreat by the US. I pointed out to the President that this matter had been brought to my attention on Saturday afternoon by the Defense Department and they were somewhat concerned that there was a Presidential approved paper which they had not been privileged to see. I told the President that I had discussed this with Mr. Murphy and that he felt that Defense was unduly excited and if they fully understood the situation, their cause for concern would disappear. The President then asked me who really was raising the

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~~TOP SECRET~~

issue and I pointed out that it was Defense. He commented that negotiations with respect to Berlin were primarily a State Department matter and that for purposes of this sort Defense was not a policy-making body but an operating body. I responded that I nevertheless felt it my duty to bring to his attention major differences of view in matters of such supreme importance.



He then summoned Mrs. Whitman and asked her if she had a copy of the "talking paper" which he had approved for Mr. Herter's use in the resumed conferences. She did not have such a copy but the President told me that it contained a number of positions which Mr. Herter felt he might be forced to take if there were to be any progress at all towards a basis for a Summit meeting.

5. I then indicated to the President that I proposed to request a status report from NASA for the NSC. I pointed out to him that NASA is required by law to make unclassified reports to the Congress and that the report to the Council would be brief and supplementary to such other reports, covering matters with implications for the national security. The President approved this proposal.

6. The President handed to me a copy of a letter to him from Mr. C. D. Jackson, asking me to read and consider it.

Gordon Gray  
Special Assistant to the President

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